



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

extends from Waigatch Island toward Nova Zembla, the maximum sounding was determined at 25 fathoms, but nothing of 20 fathoms or less was found.

The following magnetic observations were among those made by the expedition:

Orloff lighthouse, 7.30 P.M., 11/24 June.....	Decl., 8° 18.4' E.
Russian Cape (Russky Saworot) Penin., 8 P.M.,	
8/21 July.....	“ 16° 8.8' E.
Northwest coast of Waigatch Island, 10 A.M.,	
28 July/10 August.....	“ 18° 47.8' E.
Near the mouth of the Kara River, 10 A.M.,	
25° August/7 September.....	“ 19° 33.5' E.

E. O. H.

ALASKAN CABLES AND TELEGRAPHS.

The accompanying map is reduced from the new War Department map showing the completed cable lines in Alaskan waters, those that are proposed and are to be carried out next year, the telegraph lines now in operation in the Territory, and the British Columbia land line from Ashcroft, on the Canadian Pacific R.R., to Dawson and Eagle.

It is expected that the cable from Seattle to Sitka and Juneau will be laid in April next. The cable, 1,300 miles in length, was manufactured near New York City after Congress had authorized the line on March 3, 1903, and was delivered at San Francisco in the fall. The route from Seattle to Sitka was surveyed by Capt. J. F. Pratt, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

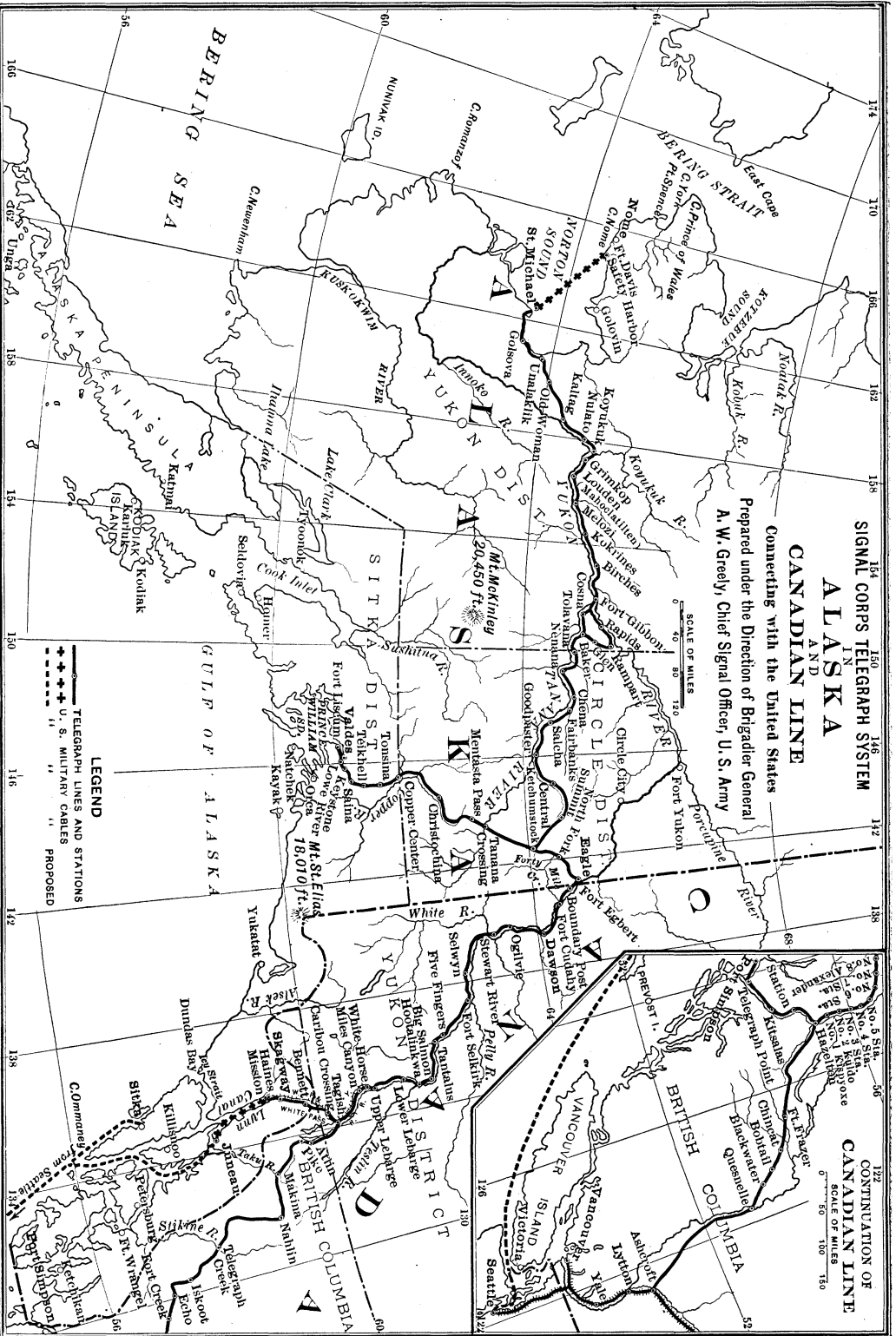
The cable route passes from Puget Sound out into the Pacific to the west of Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands, and then makes straight for the south end of Baranov Island, on which Sitka is situated. At the south end of this island one branch will be laid north to Sitka and the other northeast through the coastal channels to Juneau.

The map shows that two cable lines in Alaskan waters have already been completed. One of them extends from Juneau up Lynn Canal to Skagway; the other connects St. Michael with Nome, the centre of the largest placer gold-mining industry in

SIGNAL CORPS TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

ALASKA AND CANADIAN LINE

Connecting with the United States
Prepared under the Direction of Brigadier General
A. W. Greely, Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army



Alaska. Unfortunately, the cable between St. Michael and Nome has been broken by ice in the shallow waters of Norton Sound, and the break is not yet repaired. Thus Nome, a town of 25,000 inhabitants, is now isolated, and will be till navigation opens about June 1 next.

The Signal Corps has built 1,740 miles of land lines, and we are already in electric communication with various districts of the Territory. Despatches, for example, may be sent from Juneau by the Lynn Canal cable to Skagway, and thence by the land line toward the Yukon River, to be transferred to the British Columbia telegraph and the United States; or they may be sent from Valdes, on Prince William Sound, the port for the Copper River mines, by the line we have completed to Eagle, on the Yukon, and thence up the Yukon to Dawson, British Columbia, and the United States; or they may be sent from St. Michael up the Yukon and Tanana Rivers to Eagle and there forwarded by the Canadian lines. The numerous telegraph stations scattered along these lines are indicated on the map.

Most of our mining centres in Alaska are now provided with telegraph facilities. The chief exceptions are the great placer-mining region of the Seward Peninsula, of which Nome is the main point; and the mining camps of Cook Inlet and of the interior region around Circle City and the northern bend of the Yukon.

These land lines have been constructed under great difficulties, and the Signal Corps is entitled to unstinted praise for its arduous and successful labours. The winter months were found to be the best working season, though the mean temperature is below zero and the snow is deep. Practically no wagon roads exist in the country traversed, and the material had to be sledded into the interior in midwinter or carried by pack animals over the roughest imaginable trails. Many hardships might have been escaped if it had not been found that the cold and snow of winter are less unfavourable for building telegraph lines than are the morasses and fires of summer. The importance of the telegraph system will rapidly increase as the increasing number of miners enlarges business interests.